

## **Design Build Materials Approval and Acceptance Program**

### **Policy**

The Design Builder will be responsible for all materials approvals and acceptance by means of testing, inspection, and documentation. A Materials Certification package as defined in the Construction Manual chapter 9-1, approved by the Design Builder's Engineer of Record, shall be submitted to WSDOT prior to acceptance of the project.

**Materials Approval** – All materials shall be reviewed and approved by the Engineer of Record prior to use. The Design-Builder may use the Qualified Product List (QPL), may submit a Request for Approval of Materials (RAM), or may denote approval by listing the material in the plans and specification as sealed by the Engineer of Record.

**Qualified Products List (QPL)** – The Design-Builder may use products listed on the latest edition of WSDOT's Qualified Product List (QPL) without submitting a Request for Approval of Materials (RAM) to the Engineer of Record. The Design-Builder shall follow the acceptance requirements as listed in the QPL for the product/material used.

**Request for Approval of Material (RAM)** - The RAM shall be used when the Design-Builder elects not to use the QPL or the material is not listed in the QPL or not shown on the sealed plans and specifications. The RAM shall be prepared by the Design-Builder and submitted to the Engineer of Record for approval before the material is incorporated into the work. Approval of the material does not constitute acceptance of the material for incorporation into the work.

**Materials Tracking System** – The Design Builder will develop a materials tracking system to track the quantities of material placed and the acceptance status. This will be kept up to date and posted in a location on the job site where the WSDOT can monitor it.

**Aggregate Source Approval** – The Design Builder can use any approved aggregate that is included in the WSDOT Aggregate Source Approval System. If the Design Builder wishes to use an aggregate source that is not on the WSDOT Aggregate Source Approval System, preliminary samples will have to be evaluated for the quality tests including degradation and LA Abrasion in addition to the acceptance testing.

**Materials Acceptance** – All material that the Design Builder wishes to use shall be tested, field verified, and or documented. All materials have to be approved prior to use. The materials acceptance program shall be as defined in the WSDOT Construction Manual, Materials Manuals, Standard Specifications, or other contract provisions defined in the design build agreement.

**Visual Inspection** – The acceptance of certain types of materials may be based on visual inspection prior to incorporating the materials into the project. Product documentation shall be provided in the form of a manufacturer's catalog cut or product data sheets. For

details regarding specific instructions for field acceptance see Chapter 9-04 of the WSDOT Construction Manual.

**Certificate of Compliance** – The acceptance of certain types of materials shall be based on receipt of a Certificate of Compliance prior to incorporating the materials into the project. This process is intended to speed the materials approval process and insure the correct material is being used on the project. The Certificate of Compliance shall meet the requirements of Section 1-06.3 of the Standard Specifications.

**Field Verification** – All materials permanently incorporated into a contract shall be field verified and documented by the Design Build inspector. The field verification or visual inspection shall occur prior to or during initial placement of materials. Field verification documentation should contain sufficient information to identify what was used including quantities. The field verification documentation needs to be initialed or signed and dated by the inspector at the time of verification. The field verification information should be the link between what was placed and paid for to what was specified by the Engineer of Record or approved on the RAM or QPL and its proper acceptance criteria.

**WSDOT Oversight** – The Design Builder shall distribute copies of all approval and acceptance documents to the WSDOT for their use. These documents need to be distributed to the WSDOT in a timely manner. The WSDOT will use these documents to verify what is being used.

## **Discussion**

The federal regulations require that a final materials certification be submitted to the FHWA Division Manager. This program allows for the Design Builder to approve their materials for use. With this materials documentation, we have some confidence that the Design Builders approval and acceptance procedures have been performed correctly.